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CAPABLE OF AUTOMATICALLY
SUPPLEMENTING SCENARIO ON
THE BASIS OF RECEIVED
ADDITIONAL DATA

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Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) is the nonprovisional utility patent application of:

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Enclosed are:

- Specification, Claim(s), and Abstract (28 pages).
- Informal drawings (12 sheets, Figures 1-12D).
- Declaration and Power of Attorney (2 pages).
- Assignment of the invention to NEC CORPORATION.
- Assignment Recordation Cover Sheet.

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SCENARIO EDITING DEVICE
CAPABLE OF AUTOMATICALLY SUPPLEMENTING SCENARIO
ON THE BASIS OF RECEIVED ADDITIONAL DATA

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION:

This invention relates to a scenario editing device which is for editing a scenario of multimedia contents.

The multimedia contents include a plurality of materials represented by multimedia data. The multimedia data includes at least one data set such as an image data set (or still picture data set), a video data set (or moving picture data set or animation data set), an audio data set, or a text data set. A scenario defines a concrete form of presenting or exhibiting the multimedia contents. In other words, the scenario defines displaying position and timing of text and images and reproducing audio and video. The multimedia contents is provided to a computer with a recording medium such as a CD-ROM or through a computer network such as an internet. Then, the multimedia contents is presented or exhibit to clients with the computer.

As is easily understood from the description mentioned above, the scenario is necessary to present or exhibit the multimedia contents to the clients.

A conventional scenario editing device produces and edits the scenario in response to instructions given by an operator.

The operator prepares multimedia data to complete the multimedia contents and produce the scenario so that the prepared multimedia data is included in the multimedia contents.

By the way, it desired to automatically supplement a scenario of incomplete multimedia contents recently when the scenario editing device receives additional multimedia data which are necessary to complete the incomplete multimedia contents.

However, the conventional scenario editing device can not automatically supplement the scenario of the multimedia contents on the basis of the additional multimedia data because it needs the instructions given by the operator to supplement (or edit) the scenario.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION:

It is therefore an object of this invention to provide a scenario editing device which can automatically supplement a scenario of multimedia contents when it receives an additional data set which is necessary to complete the multimedia contents.

Other object of this invention will become clear as the description proceeds.

On describing the gist of this invention, it is possible to understand that a scenario editing device edits a scenario of multimedia contents which include a plurality of materials represented by data sets.

According to the gist of this invention, the scenario editing device comprises a scenario memory for memorizing the

scenario. A scenario rule memory memorizes a scenario basic rule which defines specifications of a complete state of the multimedia contents. A receiving unit receives an additional data set which represents an additional material necessary to complete the multimedia contents. A scenario supplementing unit is connected to the scenario memory, the scenario rule memory, and the receiving unit and supplements the scenario according to the scenario basic rule so that the additional material is included in the multimedia contents to make the multimedia contents approach the complete state.

According to another gist of this invention, a scenario editing device edits a scenario of multimedia contents which are presented to a client through a computer network and which include a plurality of materials represented by data sets. The scenario editing device comprises a scenario memory for memorizing the scenario. A presenting section is connected to the scenario memory and the computer network and presents the multimedia contents to the client by the use of the scenario memorized in scenario memory. A receiving unit receives an additional data set which is supplied from the client and which represents an additional material. A scenario supplementing unit is connected to the scenario memory and the receiving unit for supplementing the scenario memorized in the scenario memory so that the additional material represented by the additional data set is included in the multimedia contents.

According to still another gist of this invention, a recording medium in which a computer readable program is recorded. The computer readable program comprises the steps

of memorizing, in a scenario memory, a scenario of multimedia contents which include a plurality of materials represented by data sets, memorizing, in a scenario rule memory, a scenario basic rule which defines specifications of a complete state of the multimedia contents, receiving, by a receiving unit, an additional data set which represents an additional material necessary to complete the multimedia contents, and supplementing, at a scenario supplementing unit, the scenario according to the scenario basic rule so that the additional material is included in the multimedia contents to make the multimedia contents approach the complete state.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING:

Fig. 1 is a block diagram of a conventional scenario editing device;

Fig. 2 is a flow chart for describing an operation of the conventional scenario editing device of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a block diagram of a scenario editing device of a preferred embodiment of this invention;

Figs. 4A and 4B show an example of a complete state of multimedia contents;

Figs. 5A and 5B show an example of an incomplete multimedia contents;

Figs. 6A, 6B, and 6C show a form of a scenario memorized in a scenario memory;

Fig. 7 shows a form of a scenario basic rule memorized in scenario rule memory;

Fig. 8 shows a form of a scenario complete degree information;

Figs. 9A and 9B show the incomplete multimedia contents presented by the WWW browser;

Fig. 10 shows an example of an electronic mail sent from a client:

Fig. 11 shows a form of a supplier information memorized in supplier information memory;

Figs. 12A, 12B, 12C, and 12D show an example of supplemented scenario;

Fig. 13 shows a renewed scenario complete degree information; and

Figs. 14A and 14B show supplemented multimedia contents.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT:

Referring to Figs. 1 and 2, description will be at first directed to a conventional scenario editing device for a better understanding of this invention. The scenario editing device is used for producing and editing a scenario which defines presenting positions and timing of multimedia contents formed by materials represented by multimedia data in response to instructions given by an operator.

In Fig. 1, the conventional scenario editing device comprises an input/output unit 101 which receives commands and the multimedia data from the operator. The multimedia data are, for example, image data sets, video data sets, text data sets, and audio data sets. The commands are for given the instruction to the scenario editing device. A multimedia data memory 102

memorizes the multimedia data. A scenario editing unit 103 produces and edits the scenario on the basis of the multimedia data in response to the commands. A scenario memory 104 memorizes the scenario. A scenario expanding unit 105 expands the scenario which includes a sub-scenario to edit the scenario. A data control unit 106 is connected to the input/output unit 101, the multimedia data memory 102, the scenario editing unit 103, the scenario memory 104, and the scenario expanding unit 105 to control flows of the commands, the multimedia data and the scenario. A work memory 107 is connected to the scenario editing unit 103, the scenario expanding unit 105, and the input/output unit 101 to temporarily store the scenario.

The scenario editing device operates as shown in Fig. 2 when a command is supplied from the operator to the input/output unit 101.

At the step S201, the input/output unit 101 decides whether the received command relates to the multimedia data or the scenario. When the received command relates to the multimedia data, the input/output unit 101 receives the multimedia data from the operator at the step S202 and transmits the multimedia data to the multimedia data memory 102 through the data control unit 106. The multimedia data memory 102 memorizes the multimedia data transmitted from the input/output unit 101 at the step S203.

On the other hand, when the received command relates to the scenario, the input/output unit 101 judges substance of the received command at the step S204.

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If the received command instructs the scenario editing device to produce the scenario, the input/output unit 101 orders the data control unit 106 and the scenario editing unit 103 to produce the scenario. When the data control unit 106 receives the scenario producing order from the input/output unit 101, it reads out the multimedia data from the multimedia data memory 102 and transmits the multimedia data to the scenario editing unit 103. The scenario editing unit 103 receives the multimedia data from the data control unit 106 and produces the scenario at the step S205. In this event, the scenario editing unit 103 receives the commands given from the operator through the input/output unit 101. Then, the scenario editing unit 103 transmits the produced scenario to the scenario memory 104 through the data control unit 106. The scenario memory 104 memorizes the produced scenario supplied from the scenario editing unit 103.

If the received command instructs the scenario editing device to edit the scenario memorized in the scenario memory 104, the input/output unit 101 orders the data control unit 106 and the scenario editing unit 103 to edit the scenario. When the data control unit 106 receives the scenario editing order from the input/output unit 101, it reads out the scenario from the scenario memory 104 and transmits the scenario to the scenario editing unit 103. The scenario editing unit 103 receives the scenario from the data control unit 106 and edits the scenario in response to the commands given by the operator at the step S206. Then, the scenario editing unit 103 transmits the edited scenario to the scenario memory 104 through the data

control unit 106. The scenario memory 104 memorized the edited scenario.

If the received command instructs the scenario editing device to expand the scenario memorized in the scenario memory 104, the input/output unit 101 orders the data control unit 106 to expand the scenario. When the data control unit 106 receives the scenario expanding order from the input/output unit 101, it reads out the scenario from the scenario memory 104 and transmits the scenario to the scenario expanding unit 105. The scenario expanding unit 105 receives the scenario from the data control unit 106 and expands the scenario at the step S207. Then, the scenario expanding unit 105 stores the expanded scenario into the work memory 107. The scenario editing unit 103 can edit the expanded scenario stored in the work memory 107.

As mentioned above, the conventional scenario editing device produces and edits the scenario on the basis of the previously provided multimedia data in response to the commands supplied from the operator. Such a scenario editing device is disclosed in Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication (JP-A) No. 8-305720.

By the way, it is desired to automatically edit or supplement the scenario of multimedia contents when the scenario editing device receives additional multimedia data which is necessary to complete the multimedia contents. For example, there is a case where a teacher presents or exhibits incomplete multimedia contents to his/her students using a temporary scenario through a computer network and requests the students to supply the additional multimedia data for

completing the multimedia contents. In this case, the teacher desires that the scenario editing device can automatically supplement the temporary scenario on the basis of the additional multimedia data.

However, the conventional scenario editing device needs the commands from the operator to receive the additional multimedia data and to edit the scenario. That is, the conventional scenario editing device does not have a setting section for supplementing information that is necessary to automatically supplement the scenario, a list producing section for producing a lacking multimedia data list on the basis of the supplement information, a presenting section for presenting the incomplete multimedia contents to clients, a scenario supplementing section for receiving the additional multimedia data provided by the clients and for completing the scenario on the basis of the additional multimedia data and the supplement information, and a contents completing section for changing the incomplete multimedia contents into complete multimedia contents.

Referring to Figs. 3 through 14, the description will proceed to a scenario editing device according to a preferred embodiment of this invention. The scenario editing device is realized with, for example, a personal computer which is connected to a computer network such as an internet. In other words, the scenario editing device is realized a program which can be read and executed by the personal computer.

In Fig. 3, the scenario editing device comprises an input device 301. The input device is, for example, a keyboard or

a mouse. The input device may be a combination of the keyboard, the mouse, and so on. The input device 301 is operated by an operator to input commands. The commands instructs the scenario editing device to receive multimedia data representative of materials of multimedia contents, to delete disused multimedia data, and to designate presenting or exhibiting positions and timing of the materials. The multimedia data includes an audio data set, a video data set, an image data set, and a text data set. An output device 302 is, for example, a display unit and displays the multimedia data, the multimedia contents, and necessary information for the inputting operation for the input device 301. An input/output control unit 303 is connected to the input device 301 and the output device 302 to control signals supplied from the input device 301 and other signals supplied to the output device 302. When the input/output control unit 303 receives the commands from the input device 301, it produces operating information. A scenario editing unit 304 is connected to the input/output control unit 303 to produce and edit a scenario of the multimedia contents on the basis of the operating information supplied from the input/output control unit 303. A scenario memory 305 is connected to the scenario editing unit 304 to memorize the scenario produced and edited by the scenario editing unit 304 together with the multimedia data relating to the scenario. A scenario rule editing unit 306 is connected to the input/output control unit 303 to produce and edit a scenario basic rule on the basis of the operating information supplied from the input/output control unit 303. The scenario basic rule is used

for automatically supplementing the scenario. A scenario rule memory 307 is connected to the scenario rule editing unit 306 to memorize the scenario basic rule produced and edited by the scenario rule editing unit 306. A scenario analyzing unit 308 is connected to the scenario memory 305 and the scenario rule memory 307 and analyzes the scenario memorized in the scenario memory 305 with referring to the scenario basic rule memorized in the scenario memory 307 to produce a scenario complete degree information. The scenario complete degree information includes a scenario complete rate information representative of a complete rate of the multimedia contents and a lacking data list representative of lacking data sets for a complete state of the multimedia contents. A scenario complete degree memory 309 is connected to the scenario analyzing unit 308 to memorize the scenario complete degree information. A scenario converting unit 310 is connected to the scenario memory 305, the scenario rule memory 307, and the scenario complete degree memory 309. The scenario converting unit 310 converts the scenario memorized in the scenario memory 305 into an exhibiting electronic document with referring to the scenario basic rule memorized in the scenario memory 307 to exhibit an incomplete multimedia contents. The incomplete multimedia contents includes the scenario complete degree information memorized in the scenario complete degree memory 309. A connecting unit 311 is connected to the scenario converting unit 310 and the computer network and exhibits the incomplete multimedia contents on the computer network to present the incomplete multimedia contents to clients through the computer network.

The scenario converting unit 310 and the connecting unit 311 are called a presenting section for presenting the multimedia contents to the clients. An additional data receiving unit 312 is for receiving an additional data set and supplier information from the clients. The additional data receiving unit 312 includes, for example, a email receiving client software, a floppy disk drive for a floppy or flexible magnetic disk, an optical disk drive for an optical disk or a optical magnetic disk, a memory reader for a semiconductor memory, a modem or a terminal adapter connected to the computer network, or a scanner for scanning a printed matter. A scenario supplementing unit 313 is connected to the scenario memory 305, the scenario rule memory 307, and the additional data receiving unit 312 and produces an additional scenario according to the scenario basic rule memorized in scenario rule memory 307 and the additional data set received by the additional data receiving unit 312 to supplement the scenario memorized in the scenario memory 305 with the additional scenario. Moreover, the scenario supplementing unit 313 adds the additional data set received by the additional data receiving unit 312 to the multimedia data memorized in the scenario memory 305. An supplier information memory 314 is connected to the additional data receiving unit 312 and the connecting unit 311 and memorized the supplier information received by the additional data receiving unit 312 to supply the supplier information to the connecting unit 311.

An operation of the scenario editing device is described soon with referring to Figs 4 to 14 together with Fig. 3.

At first, the operator makes a concrete idea of the complete state of the multimedia contents as illustrated in Figs. 4A and 4B. The multimedia contents includes a table of contents shown in Fig. 4A and content pages shown in Fig. 4B. The table of Fig. 4A has items of spots of A, B, C, and D and years of 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000. The table includes link buttons corresponding to combinations of points and years. Each of the link buttons is related to one of the content pages of Fig. 4B. Each of the content pages includes a title, a picture, and a caption.

Next, the operator makes temporary multimedia contents which lacks a part of the materials of the complete multimedia contents. When all of the materials is not gathered, the operator makes the temporary multimedia contents. Moreover, the operator makes the temporary multimedia contents so that the clients tries to gather the lacking materials.

To make the temporary multimedia contents, the operator operates the input device 301. The operator inputs the multimedia data representative of provided materials and instructs presenting position and timing by the use of input device 301. The input device 301 supplies the multimedia data and commands corresponding to the instructions.

The input/output control unit 303 produces the operating information in response the commands supplied from the input device 301 and supplies the operating information to the scenario editing unit 304.

The scenario editing unit 304 produces the scenario for the temporary multimedia contents and stores the scenario into

the scenario memory 305.

An example of the temporary multimedia contents is shown in Figs. 5A and 5B. Namely, the temporary multimedia contents includes a table of contents shown in Fig. 5A and a content page shown in Fig. 5B. The table of Fig. 5A has an only one link bottom which is related to the content page of Fig. 5B. In this case, the scenario memory memorizes the scenario of the form as shown in Figs. 6A, 6B, and 6C. That is, the scenario has a main table shown in Fig. 6A and two data table shown in Figs. 6B and 6C. The data table 001 of Fig. 6A is corresponding to the table of the contents of Fig. 5A while the data table 002 of Fig. 6B is corresponding to the content page of Fig. 5B.

Next, the operator inputs necessary information for making the scenario basic rule at the scenario rule editing unit 306. The scenario rule editing unit 306 receives the information from the input device 301 through the input/output control unit 303 and produce the scenario basic rule. The scenario rule memory 307 memorizes the scenario basic rule made by the scenario rule editing unit 306.

The scenario basic rule includes rules of, for example, "The number of the content pages are sixteen in the complete state.", "The content pages are classified on the basis of combinations of spots and years.", "Positions of the link bottoms are decided by an equation F.", etc. For example, the scenario basic rule memorized in the scenario rule memory 307 has a form as shown in Fig. 7. Additionally, the scenario basic rule may be written with script language (i.e. simple programming language, e.g. JavaScript) which can be handled by

the scenario analyzing unit 308, the scenario converting unit 310, and scenario supplementing unit 313. IF the scenario basic rule includes enough substance to form the scenario for the complete multimedia contents, it is unnecessary for the operator to make the temporally multimedia contents.

When the scenario basic rule memorized in the scenario rule memory 307, the scenario analyzing unit 308 reads out the scenario from the scenario memory 305. Then the scenario analyzing 308 recognizes that the scenario memorized in the scenario memory 305 includes pages of "TABLE OF CONTENTS" and "SPOT C, 1980". Moreover, the scenario analyzing 308 reads out the scenario basic rule from the scenario memory 307 and produces the scenario complete degree information on the basis of the scenario with referring to the scenario basic rule. The scenario complete degree information is, for example, as shown in Fig. 8. In Fig. 8, the lacking data list shows lack of fifteen pages. The scenario complete rate information shows that one sixteenth of the multimedia contents is finished.

When the scenario complete degree information is stored in the scenario complete degree memory 309, the scenario converting unit 310 reads out the scenario from the scenario memory 305 and recognizes that the data table 001 corresponds to the scenario of the table of the contents on the basis of the main table of Fig. 6A. Furthermore, the scenario converting unit 310 reads out the scenario complete degree information from the scenario complete degree memory 309 and specifies the lacking pages on the basis of the lacking data list included in the scenario complete degree information. In addition, the

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scenario converting unit 310 reads out the scenario basic rule from the scenario rule memory 307 and recognizes locations of the link buttons relating to the lacking pages. Then the scenario converting unit 310 changes the scenario so that marks such as open circles are located in place of the link buttons corresponding to the lacking page. The scenario converting unit 310 further changes the scenario so that a request sentence is included in the page of the title of the contents. The request sentence is, for example, "REQUEST: Lack of Pages corresponding to Open Circles. Please provide relating materials.". Then the scenario converting unit 310 converts the scenario into the exhibiting electronic document such as a HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language) document. The exhibiting electronic document includes materials represented by the text data sets. The exhibiting electronic document and multimedia data except for the text data sets are supplied to the connecting unit 311.

The connecting unit 311 is, for example, a modem and uploads the exhibiting electronic document and the multimedia data to, for example, a WWW server connected to the internet. Thus the multimedia contents exhibits on the computer network and present them to the clients.

Each of the client can watch the table of the contents by the use of a WWW browser and can watch the content page by the clicking the link button. For example, the www browser shows the table of the contents and the content page as illustrated in Fig. 9A and 9B, respectively.

The connecting unit 311 further checks the supplier information memory 314. If an electronic mail address is included in the supplier information memorized in the supplier information memory 314, the presenting unit 311 send an email to request the lacking multimedia data.

Now, it is assumed that one of the clients sent an email as shown in Fig. 10 to the scenario editing device.

The additional data receiving unit 312 receives the email and analyze the email. The additional data receiving unit 312 picks out a picture (i.e. an image data set) and its caption (i.e. a text data set) from the email and recognizes that the picture shows a landscape of the spot A in 1990. The picture and the caption is supplied to the scenario supplementing unit 313 together with the recognized information. Moreover, the additional data receiving unit 312 picks out the supplier information, receiving date information, source address of the email and stores these information into the supplier information memory 314. The supplier information memory 314 memorizes the supplier information as shown in Fig. 11.

When the scenario supplementing unit 313 receives the additional data sets representing the picture and the caption, it refers to the scenario basic rule memorized in the scenario rule memory 307 to produce the additional scenario corresponding to the additional data sets. The scenario supplementing unit 313 further changes the scenario memorized in the scenario memory 305 to incorporate the additional scenario to the memorized scenario. That is, the scenario supplementing unit 313 produces a data table 003 as shown in

Fig. 12D and changes the main table as shown in Fig. 12A according to the scenario basic rules of "MAKE A CONTENT PAGE EVERY COMBINATION OF SPOT AND YEAR" and "FOLLOW THE PAGE OF "SPOT C, 1980"". Then the scenario supplementing unit 313 changes the data table 001 according to the scenario basic rules of "CLASSIFY RECEIVED DATA ACCORDING TO YEARS OF 1970, 1980, 1990, AND 2000", "CLASSIFY RECEIVED DATA ACCORDING TO SPOTS OF A, B, C, AND D", and "LOCATE A BUTTON ACCORDING TO EQUATION F" as shown in Fig. 12B to locate a link button relating to the content page of "SPOT A, 1990" on the page of "TABLE OF CONTENTS". As shown in Fig. 12C, the data table 002 corresponding to the content page of "SPOT C, 1980" is not changed by the scenario supplementing unit 313 in this event.

When the scenario memorized in the scenario memory 305 is renewed by the scenario supplementing unit 313, the scenario analyzing unit 308 analyzes the renewed scenario and renew the scenario complete degree information memorized in the scenario complete degree memory 309. The renewed scenario complete degree information is shown in Fig. 13. Compared with Fig. 8, "SPOT A, 1990" is erased from the column of the lacking page and the scenario complete rate is changed to 2/16 in Fig. 13.

When the scenario and the scenario complete degree information are renewed, the scenario converting unit converts the renewed scenario into a renewed exhibiting electronic document. The contents presenting unit 311 upload the renewed exhibiting electronic document and the multimedia data to the www server.

The WWW browser can show the renewed table of the contents as shown in Fig. 14A. If the link button relating to the content page of "SPOT A, 1990" is clicked, the WWW browser shows the content page of "SPOT A, 1990" as shown in Fig. 14B. Additionally, if the scenario basic rule includes a rule of "DISPLAY NAME OF SUPPLIER", the content page of the "SPOT A, 1990" includes a sentence of "SUPPLIED BY NICHIDEN TARO". Needless to say, when the link button relating to the content page of "SPOT C, 1980" is clicked, the WWW browser shows the content page of "SPOT C, 1980" as shown in Fig. 9B.

As mentioned above, the scenario editing device automatically renews the scenario memorized in scenario memory 305 whenever additional data sets are supplied from the clients. In addition, the scenario editing device renews the multimedia contents exhibiting on the computer network whenever the scenario is renewed. Thus the scenario editing device automatically enriches the multimedia contents to achieve the complete state of the multimedia contents.

Since the scenario basic rule has no completion condition in above description, the scenario editing device continues the operation forever. Therefore, it is necessary to add a rule for stopping the operation of the scenario editing device to the scenario basic rule memorized in the scenario rule memory 307. The additional rule is as, for example, "If once the content page is made, don't renew the content page.". In this case, the scenario supplementing unit 313 rejects the additional multimedia data relating to the content page which is already made.

While this invention has thus far been described in conjunction with the preferred embodiment thereof, it will readily be possible for those skilled in the art to put this invention into practice in various other manners. For example, the input/output control unit 303, the scenario editing unit 304, the scenario rule editing unit 306, the scenario analyzing unit 308, the scenario converting unit 310, the contents presenting unit 311, the additional data receiving unit 312, and the scenario supplementing unit 313 are realized by a software or a computer program. The computer program secures memory areas for the scenario memory 305, the scenario rule memory 307, the scenario complete degree memory 309, and the supplier information memory 314 in a memory device (not shown) of the personal computer. Though the computer program is generally recorded in a recording medium such as a CD-ROM, a flexible magnetic recording medium, or a semiconductor memory, it may be memorized in a server such as the WWW server.

Moreover, the output device may be used for presenting the multimedia contents to the clients. In this case, the connecting unit 311 may be a memory substituting for the www server.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A scenario editing device for editing a scenario of multimedia contents which include a plurality of materials represented by data sets, said scenario editing device comprising:

a scenario memory for memorizing the scenario,

a scenario rule memory for memorizing a scenario basic rule which defines specifications of a complete state of the multimedia contents,

a receiving unit for receiving an additional data set which represents an additional material necessary to complete the multimedia contents, and

a scenario supplementing unit connected to said scenario memory, said scenario rule memory, and said receiving unit for supplementing the scenario according to the scenario basic rule so that the additional material is included in the multimedia contents to make the multimedia contents approach the complete state.

2. A scenario editing device as claim in Claim 1, wherein said scenario editing device further comprises a scenario converting unit connected to said scenario memory and said scenario rule memory for converting the scenario memorized in said scenario memory with referring to the scenario basic rule into an exhibiting electronic document which is used for exhibiting the multimedia contents.

3. A scenario editing device as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said scenario editing device further comprises a

connecting unit connected to the scenario converting unit for connecting the scenario converting unit to a computer network to exhibit the multimedia contents on said computer network.

4. A scenario editing device as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said receiving unit is connected to said computer network to receive the additional data set through said computer network.

5. A scenario editing device as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said scenario editing device further comprises a scenario analyzing unit connected to said scenario memory, said scenario rule memory, and said scenario converting unit for analyzing the scenario memorized in the scenario memory with referring to the scenario basic rule memorized in the scenario rule memory to produce a lacking data list and to supply the lacking data list for said scenario converting unit, and said scenario converting unit including the lacking data list with the multimedia contents as one of the materials.

6. A scenario editing device as claimed in Claim 5, said scenario editing device further comprising a scenario completion degree information memory which is connected between said scenario analyzing unit and said scenario converting unit to memorize the lacking data list as completion degree information, wherein

said scenario analyzing unit renews the scenario completion degree information whenever said receiving unit receives the additional data set.

7. A scenario editing device as claimed in Claim 1, said scenario editing device further comprises a scenario editing

unit connected to said scenario memory for producing and editing the scenario.

8. A scenario editing device as claimed in Claim 1, said scenario editing device further comprises a scenario basic rule editing unit connected to said scenario rule memory for producing and editing the scenario basic rule.

9. A scenario editing device for editing a scenario of multimedia contents which are presented to a client through a computer network and which include a plurality of materials represented by data sets, said scenario editing device comprising:

a scenario memory for memorizing the scenario, presenting means connected to said scenario memory and said computer network for presenting the multimedia contents to the client by the use of the scenario memorized in scenario memory,

a receiving unit for receiving an additional data set which is supplied from the client and which represents an additional material, and

a scenario supplementing unit connected to said scenario memory and said receiving unit for supplementing the scenario memorized in said scenario memory so that the additional material represented by the additional data set is included in the multimedia contents.

10. A scenario editing device as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said presenting means has a scenario converting unit and an connecting unit,

said scenario converting unit connected to said scenario

memory for converting the scenario memorized in said scenario memory into an exhibiting electronic document, and
said connecting unit connected to said scenario converting unit for connecting said scenario converting unit to said computer network to present the multimedia contents to the client through said computer network.

11. A scenario editing device as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said receiving unit is connected to said computer network to receive the additional data set from the client through said computer network.

12. A scenario editing device as claimed in Claim 9, said scenario editing device further comprising a scenario rule memory connected to said scenario supplementing unit for memorizing a scenario basic rule defining specifications of a complete state of the multimedia contents, wherein
said scenario supplementing unit supplements the scenario according to the scenario basic rule.

13. A scenario editing device as claimed in Claim 12, wherein said scenario editing device further comprises a scenario analyzing unit connected to said scenario memory, said scenario rule memory, and said presenting means for analyzing the scenario with referring to the scenario basic rule memorized in the scenario rule memory to produce a lacking data list and to supply the lacking data list for said presenting means, and
said presenting means presenting the lacking data list as one of the materials of the multimedia contents.

14. A scenario editing device as claimed in Claim 13, said scenario editing device further comprising a scenario

completion degree information memory which is connected between said scenario analyzing unit and said presenting means to memorize the lacking data list as completion degree information, wherein

said scenario analyzing unit renews the scenario completion degree information whenever said receiving unit receives the additional data set.

15. A scenario editing device as claimed in Claim 9, said scenario editing device further comprises a scenario editing unit connected to said scenario memory for producing and editing the scenario.

16. A scenario editing device as claimed in Claim 9, said scenario editing device further comprises a scenario basic rule editing unit connected to said scenario rule memory for producing and editing the scenario basic rule.

17. A recording medium in which a computer readable program is recorded, said computer readable program comprising the steps of:

memorizing, in a scenario memory, a scenario of multimedia contents which include a plurality of materials represented by data sets,

memorizing, in a scenario rule memory, a scenario basic rule which defines specifications of a complete state of the multimedia contents,

receiving, by a receiving unit, an additional data set which represents an additional material necessary to complete the multimedia contents, and

supplementing, at a scenario supplementing unit, the

scenario according to the scenario basic rule so that the additional material is included in the multimedia contents to make the multimedia contents approach the complete state.

18. A recording medium as claimed in Claim 17, wherein said program further comprises the step of converting, at a scenario converting unit, the scenario memorized in said scenario memory with referring to the scenario basic rule into an exhibiting electronic document which is used for exhibiting the multimedia contents.

19. A recording medium as claimed in Claim 18, wherein said program further comprises the step of exhibiting the electronic document on a computer network.

20. A recording medium as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the receiving unit receives the additional data set through said computer network at the receiving step.

21. A recording medium as claimed in Claim 18, wherein
said program further comprises the steps of:

analyzing the scenario memorized in the scenario memory with referring to the scenario basic rule memorized in the scenario rule memory to produce a lacking data list and to supply the lacking data list for said scenario converting unit, and

including the lacking data list with the multimedia contents as one of the materials at said scenario converting unit.

22. A recording medium as claimed in Claim 21, wherein
said program further comprises the steps of:

memorizing the lacking data list as completion degree information in a scenario completion degree information memory,

and

renewing, at said scenario analyzing unit, the scenario completion degree information whenever said receiving unit receives the additional data set.

23. A recording medium as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the program further comprises the step of producing the scenario at a scenario editing unit to memorize the scenario into the scenario memory.

24. A recording medium as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the program further comprises the step of producing the scenario basic rule at a scenario rule editing unit to memorize the scenario basic rule into the scenario rule memory.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A scenario editing device comprises a scenario supplementing unit supplements a scenario memorized in a scenario memory according to a scenario basic rule memorized in a scenario rule memory when it receives additional data set from a receiving unit. The scenario supplementing unit includes a material represented by the additional data set with multimedia contents to make the multimedia contents approach a complete state. To receive the additional data set at the receiving unit, the scenario editing device exhibits the multimedia contents with a incomplete state on a computer network.

DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT

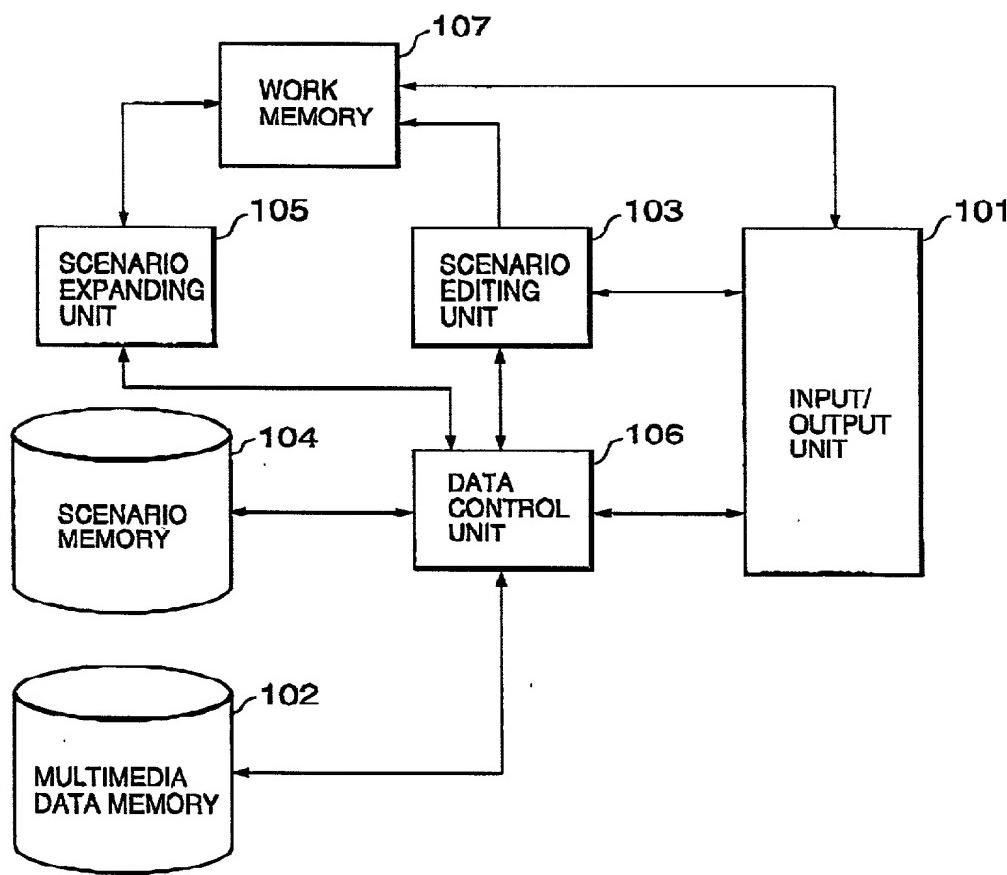


FIG. 1 PRIOR ART

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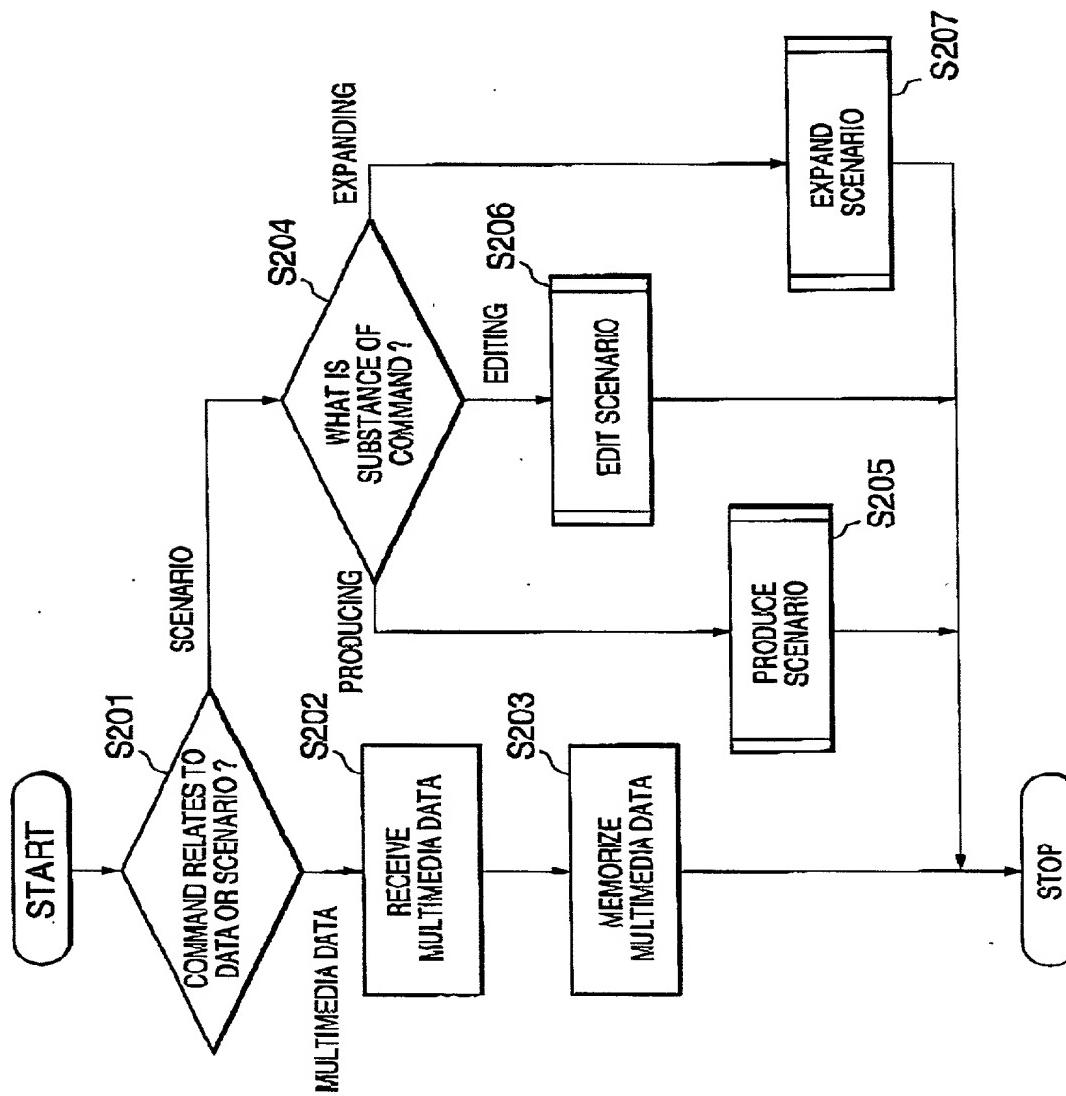


FIG. 2 PRIOR ART

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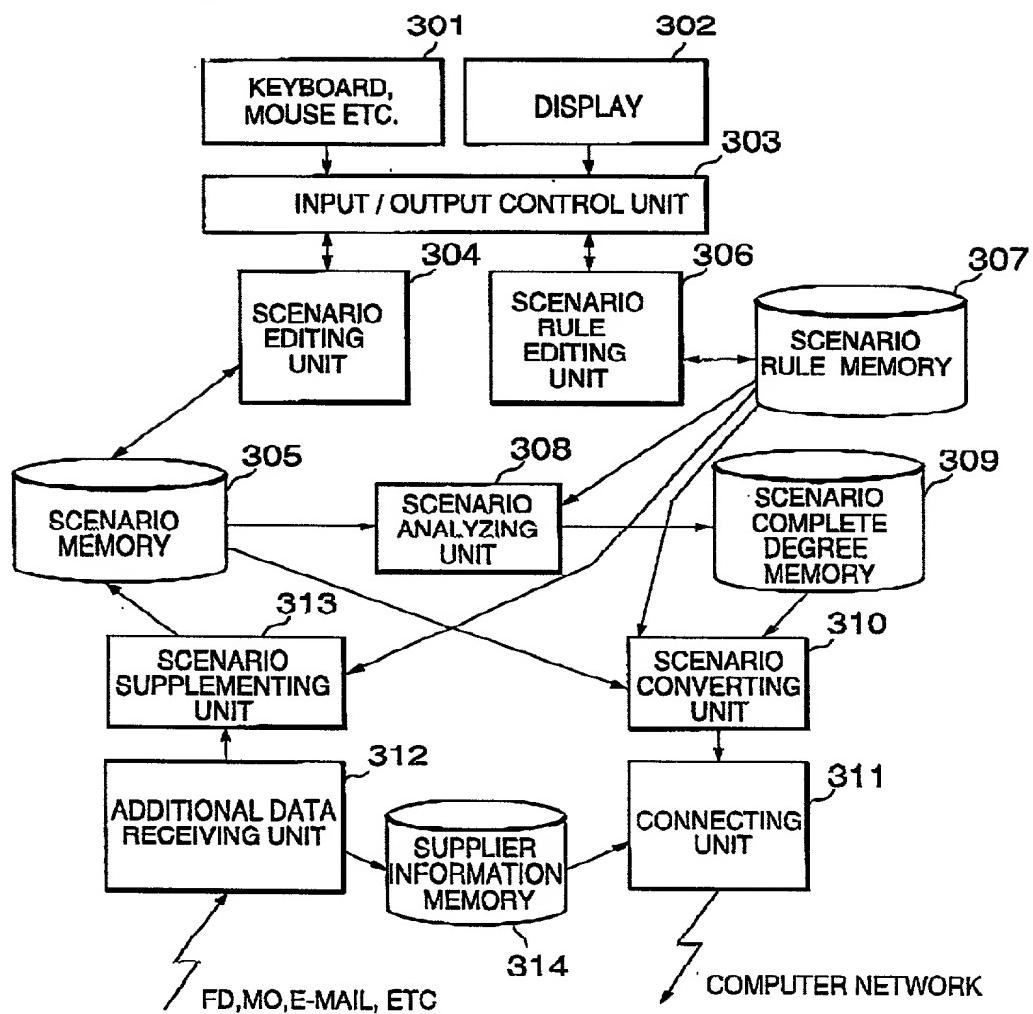
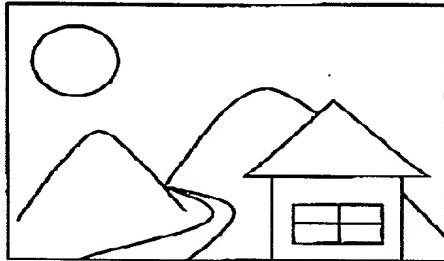


FIG. 3

TABLE OF CONTENTS

YEAR \ SPOT	A	B	C	D
1970	click	click	click	click
1980	click	click	click	click
1990	click	click	click	click
2000	click	click	click	click

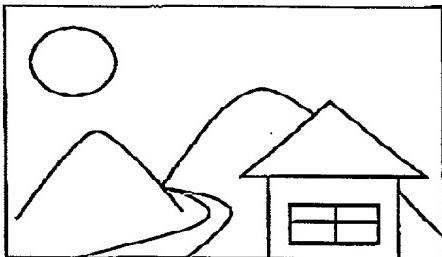
FIG. 4A**SPOT C, 1980**

**PEACEFUL
RURAL LANDSCAPE
HAD BEEN SEEN.**

FIG. 4B

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SPOT YEAR	A	B	C	D
1970				
1980			click	
1990				
2000				

FIG. 5A**SPOT C, 1980**

PEACEFUL
RURAL LANDSCAPE
HAD BEEN SEEN.

FIG. 5B

MAIN TABLE

NAME OF PAGE	NO. OF DATA TABLE
TABLE OF CONTENTS	001
SPOT C, 1980	002

FIG. 6A

DATA TABLE 001

NAME OF DATA	WIDTH	HEIGHT	HORIZONTAL POSITION	VERTICAL POSITION	DISPLAY START TIME	DISPLAY END TIME	TYPE	DETAILS
TEXT001	20	10	0	0	0	0	TEXT	TABLE OF CONTENTS
IMAGE001	120	65	5	5	1	0	IMAGE	C:\Table_001.jpg
BUTTON001	15	8	90	40	1	0	BUTTON	LINK TO PAGE SPOT C, 1980

FIG. 6B

DATA TABLE 002

NAME OF DATA	WIDTH	HEIGHT	HORIZONTAL POSITION	VERTICAL POSITION	DISPLAY START TIME	DISPLAY END TIME	TYPE	DETAILS
TEXT001	80	10	0	0	0	0	TEXT	SPOT C, 1980
IMAGE001	60	40	10	20	1	0	IMAGE	C:\9870(C).jpg
TEXT002	50	40	80	20	2	0	TEXT	PEACEFUL AND RURAL LANDSCAPE HAD BEEN SEEN.

FIG. 6C

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TABLE OF CONTENTS	PRODUCED BY OPERATOR
THE NUMBER OF PAGES	EXCEPT FOR "TABLE OF CONTENTS"
CONSTRUCTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * MAKE A CONTENT PAGE EVERY COMBINATION OF SPOT AND YEAR * FOLLOW THE PAGE OF "SPOT C, 1980"
LINK TO "TABLE OF CONTENTS"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * CLASSIFY RECEIVED DATA ACCORDING TO YEARS OF 1970, 1980, 1990, & 2000 * CLASSIFY RECEIVED DATA ACCORDING TO SPOTS OF A, B, C, & D * LOCATE A BUTTON ACCORDING TO EQUATION F BUTTON POSITION = F(i,j) i = SPOT A, B, C, & D j = 1970, 1980, 1990, & 2000
⋮	⋮
⋮	⋮
⋮	⋮

FIG. 7

LACKING PAGE	SPOT A, 1970	SPOT B, 1970	SPOT C, 1970	SPOT D, 1970
	SPOT A, 1980	SPOT B, 1980		SPOT D, 1980
	SPOT A, 1990	SPOT B, 1990	SPOT C, 1990	SPOT D, 1990
	SPOT D, 2000	SPOT B, 2000	SPOT C, 2000	SPOT D, 2000
COMPLETE RATE	1/16			
:				
:				

FIG. 8

WWW BROWSER

SPOT YEAR \	A	B	C	D
1970	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
1980	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox" value="click"/>	<input type="radio"/>
1990	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2000	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

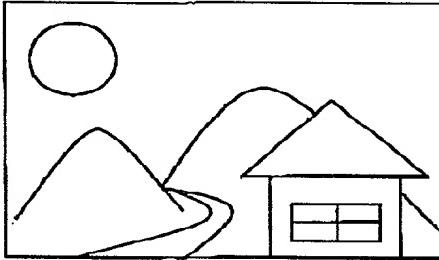
REQUEST : LACK OF PAGES CORRESPONDING TO . PLEASE PROVIDE RELATING MATERIALS.

E-MAIL ADDRESS: abcdefghi@abc.def.ghi

FIG. 9A

WWW BROWSER

SPOT C, 1980



PEACEFUL
RURAL LANDSCAPE
HAD BEEN SEEN.

FIG. 9B

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HELLO! THIS IS NICHIDEN TARO.
I FOUND A PICTURE OF A LANDSCAPE AT THE SPOT A IN 1990
WHEN I CLEANED UP MY ROOM. THE PICTURE IS ATTACHED TO THIS
MAIL.

LARGE BUILDINGS ARE SEEMINGLY INCREASING IN THOSE DAYS.

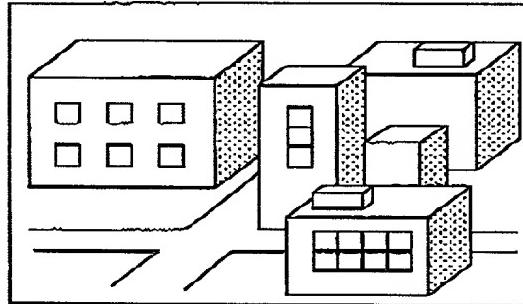


FIG. 10

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NAME OF SUPPLYER	E-MAIL ADDRESS	DATE OF SUPPLY	SUPPLIED INFORMATION
YAMAMOTO HANAKO	Hanako@ddd.eee.fff	1998/12/10	AUDIO, IMAGE
NICHIDEN TARO	Taro@aaa.bbb.ccc	1998/12/20	AUDIO, TEXT

FIG. 11

Received 03-07-00 04:30

From-61335030250

To-FOLEY AND LARDNER

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MAIN TABLE

NAME OF PAGE	NO. OF DATA TABLE
TABLE OF CONTENTS	001
SPOT C, 1980	002
SPOT A, 1990	003

FIG. 12A

DATA TABLE 001

NAME OF DATA	WIDTH	HEIGHT	HORIZONTAL POSITION	VERTICAL POSITION	DISPLAY START TIME	DISPLAY END TIME	TYPE	DETAILS
TEXT001	20	10	0	0	0	∞	TEXT	TABLE OF CONTENTS
IMAGE001	120	65	5	5	1	∞	IMAGE	C:\MAP.jpg
BUTTON001	15	8	90	40	1	∞	BUTTON	LINK TO PAGE SPOT C, 1980
BUTTON002	15	8	40	50	1	∞	BUTTON	LINK TO PAGE SPOT A, 1990

FIG. 12B

DATA TABLE 002

NAME OF DATA	WIDTH	HEIGHT	HORIZONTAL POSITION	VERTICAL POSITION	DISPLAY START TIME	DISPLAY END TIME	TYPE	DETAILS
TEXT001	80	10	0	0	0	∞	TEXT	SPOT C, 1980
IMAGE001	60	40	10	20	1	∞	IMAGE	C:\1980-C.Jpg
TEXT002	50	40	80	20	2	∞	TEXT	PEACEFUL RURAL LANDSCAPE HAD BEEN SEEN

FIG. 12C

DATA TABLE 003

NAME OF DATA	WIDTH	HEIGHT	HORIZONTAL POSITION	VERTICAL POSITION	DISPLAY START TIME	DISPLAY END TIME	TYPE	DETAILS
TEXT001	80	10	0	0	0	∞	TEXT	SPOT A, 1990
IMAGE001	60	40	10	20	1	∞	IMAGE	C:\1990-A.Jpg
TEXT002	50	40	80	20	2	∞	TEXT	LARGE BUILDINGS ARE SEEMINGLY INCREASING IN THOSE DAYS

FIG. 12D

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LACKING PAGES	SPOT A, 1970	SPOT B, 1970	SPOT C, 1970	SPOT D, 1970
	SPOT A, 1980	SPOT B, 1980		SPOT D, 1980
		SPOT B, 1990	SPOT C, 1990	SPOT D, 1990
	SPOT A, 2000	SPOT B, 2000	SPOT C, 2000	SPOT D, 2000
SCENARIO COMPLETE RATE	2/16			
:				
:				

FIG. 13

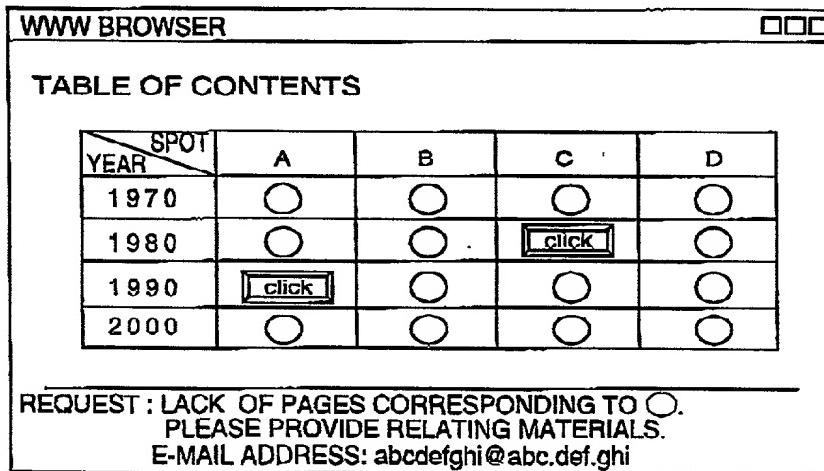


FIG. 14A

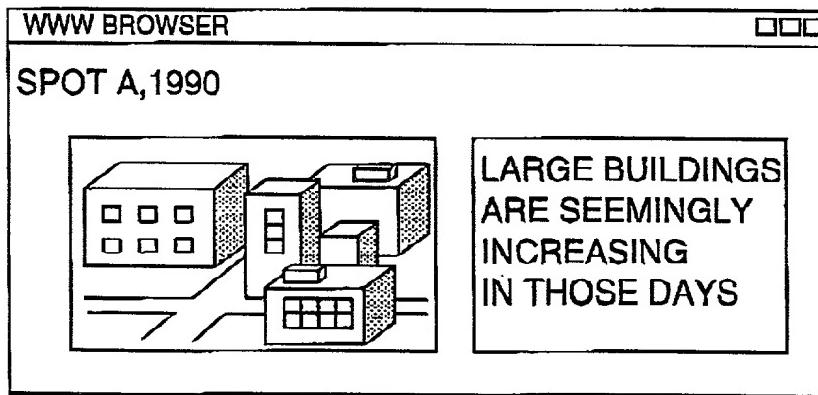


FIG. 14A

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

WN-2159
11-60371

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention, entitled:

SCENARIO EDITING DEVICE CAPABLE OF AUTOMATICALLY SUPPLEMENTING SCENARIO ON THE BASIS OF RECEIVED ADDITIONAL DATA

the specification of which is attached hereto unless the following box is checked:

was filed on _____ as United States Application Number _____ or PCT International Application Number _____ and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is known by me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations § 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(a)-(d) or § 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or § 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION(S)

NUMBER	COUNTRY	DAY/MONTH/YEAR FILED	PRIORITY CLAIMED
11-60371	Japan	8/3/1999	yes

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s), or § 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is known by me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations § 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application:

APPLICATION SERIAL NO.	FILING DATE	STATUS: PATENTED, PENDING, ABANDONED

I hereby appoint as my attorneys, with full powers of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: Stephen A. Bent, Reg. No. 29,768; David A. Blumenthal, Reg. No. 26,257; John J. Feldhaus, Reg. No. 28,822; Donald D. Jeffery, Reg. No. 19,980; Eugene M. Lee, Reg. No. 32,039; Peter G. Mack, Reg. No. 26,001; Brian J. McNamara, Reg. No. 32,789; Sybil Meloy, Reg. No. 22,749; George E. Quillin, Reg. No. 32,792; Colin G. Sandercock, Reg. No. 31,298; Bernhard D. Saxe, Reg. No. 28,665; Charles F. Schill, Reg. No. 27,390; Richard L. Schwaab, Reg. No. 25,479; Arthur Schwartz, Reg. No. 22,115; Harold C. Wegner, Reg. No. 25,258.

Address all correspondence to FOLEY & LARDNER, Washington Harbour, 3000 K Street, N.W., Suite 500, P.O. Box 25696, Washington, D.C. 20007-8696. Address telephone communications to _____ at (202) 672-5300.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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Post Office Address		

Full Name of Fourth Inventor	Signature of Fourth Inventor	Date
Residence Address	Country of Citizenship	
Post Office Address		

Full Name of Fifth Inventor	Signature of Fifth Inventor	Date
Residence Address	Country of Citizenship	
Post Office Address		